

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims represents the claims now present in this application. This listing supersedes and replaces all prior claim listings. Please cancel claims 8-11 without prejudice and amend claims 1 and 5-7 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing an image signal which converts a first image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data into a second image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data, said apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of frame memory portions for storing pixel data of a plurality of consecutive frames of the first image signal together with a motion vector that corresponds to the pixel data and lies between mutually adjacent frames;
 - data selection means for selecting plural items of pixel data located respectively in a time directional periphery and a space directional periphery with respect to a target position in the second image signal based on the plurality of frames stored in the plurality of frame memory portions; and
 - pixel data generation means for generating pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by using the plural items of pixel data selected by the data selection means, wherein the data selection means selects:
 - plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to the target position from the frame memory portion in which a current frame in the first image signal is stored, said current frame corresponding to a frame in which the target position in the second image signal is present; [[and]]

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to a position first positions before and after the current frame obtained by performing motion compensation on the target position by using the motion vector stored in the plurality of frame memory portions together with the pixel data, from the frame memory portions in which frames before and after the current frame are stored; and

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to second positions obtained by performing motion compensation on the first positions by using the motion vector and the pixel data.

2. (Original) The apparatus for processing an image signal according to claim 1, wherein the pixel data generation means comprises:

class detection means for detecting a class to which the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs;

coefficient data generation means for generating coefficient data for an estimation equation that corresponds to the class detected by the class detection means; and

calculation means for obtaining, by calculations, the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal based on the estimation equation by using the coefficient data generated by the coefficient data generation means and the plural items of pixel data selected by the data selection means.

3. (Original) The apparatus for processing an image signal according to claim 2, wherein the class detection means detects the class to which the pixel data of the target position in the second image signal belongs, by using at least the plural items of pixel data

selected by the data selection means.

4. (Original) The apparatus for processing an image signal according to claim 1, wherein each of the frame memory portions has a plurality of banks; and wherein when the frame is divided in units of major block in which a plurality of minor blocks is arranged two-dimensionally, the minor blocks located at different positions in the major block are stored in each of the plurality of banks.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for an image signal processing apparatus for processing an image signal which converts a first image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data into a second image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data, said method comprising:

a first step of storing pixel data of a plurality of consecutive frames of the first image signal in a plurality of frame memory portions together with a motion vector that corresponds to the pixel data and lies between mutually adjacent frames;

a second step of selecting plural items of pixel data located respectively in a time directional periphery and a space directional periphery with respect to a target position in the second image signal based on the plurality of frames stored in the plurality of frame memory portions; and

a third step of generating pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by using the plural items of pixel data selected by the second step,

wherein in the second step,

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to the target position are selected from the frame memory portion in which a current frame in the first image signal is stored, said current frame corresponding to a frame in which the target position in the second image signal is present; [[and]]

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to a position first positions before and after the current frame obtained by performing motion compensation on the target position by using the motion vector stored in the plurality of frame memory portions together with the pixel data, are selected from the frame memory portions in which frames before and after the current frame are stored; and

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to second positions obtained by performing motion compensation on the first positions by using the motion vector and pixel data are selected.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium recording a program that causes a computer to perform a method for processing an image signal, in order to convert a first image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data into a second image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data, said method comprising:

a first step of storing pixel data of a plurality of consecutive frames of the first image signal in a plurality of frame memory portions together with a motion vector that corresponds to the pixel data and lies between mutually adjacent frames;

a second step of selecting plural items of pixel data located respectively in a time directional periphery and a space directional periphery with respect to a target position in the

second image signal based on the plurality of frames stored in the plurality of frame memory portions; and

a third step of generating pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by using the plural items of pixel data selected by the second step,

wherein in the second step,

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to the target position are selected from the frame memory portion in which a current frame in the first image signal is stored, said current frame corresponding to a frame in which the target position in the second image signal is present; [[and]]

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to a position first positions before and after the current frame obtained by performing motion compensation on the target position by using the motion vector stored in the plurality of frame memory portions together with the pixel data, are selected from the frame memory portions in which frames before and after the current frame are stored; and

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to second positions obtained by performing motion compensation on the first positions by using the motion vector and pixel data are selected.

7. (Currently Amended) A program, stored on a computer-readable medium, that causes a computer to perform a method for processing an image signal, in order to converts a first image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data into a second image signal constituted of plural items of pixel data, said method comprising:

a first step of storing pixel data of a plurality of consecutive frames of the first image signal in a plurality of frame memory portions together with a motion vector that corresponds to the pixel data and lies between mutually adjacent frames;

a second step of selecting plural items of pixel data located respectively in a time directional periphery and a space directional periphery with respect to a target position in the second image signal based on the plurality of frames stored in the plurality of frame memory portions; and

a third step of generating pixel data of the target position in the second image signal by using the plural items of pixel data selected by the second step,

wherein in the second step,

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to the target position are selected from the frame memory portion in which a current frame in the first image signal is stored, said current frame corresponding to a frame in which the target position in the second image signal is present; [[and]]

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to a position first positions before and after the current frame obtained by performing motion compensation on the target position by using the motion vector stored in the plurality of frame memory portions together with the pixel data, are selected from the frame memory portions in which frames before and after the current frame are stored; and

plural items of pixel data located in the space directional periphery with respect to second positions obtained by performing motion compensation on the first positions by using the motion vector and pixel data are selected.

8. Canceled.

9. Canceled.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.